

Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel Claims 2, 3, and 18 without prejudice or disclaimer of their subject matter.

Please amend Claims 1, 4, 16, 17, 19 and 21, and add Claims 22-24 to read as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A printing apparatus which performs printing by using a printhead having a printing element for performing printing on a target printing medium, comprising:

command generation means for outputting a command for setting data for causing the printhead to perform predetermined processing;

storage means, arranged on the printhead, for storing information;

a carriage which supports the printhead and scans the printhead on the target printing medium; and

control means, arranged on said carriage, for controlling the printhead based on the command, said control means including:

receiving means for receiving the command generated by said command generation means, ~~and outputting a control signal corresponding to the data set in accordance with the command to the printhead, thereby controlling the printhead.~~

conversion means for obtaining an address of said storage means based on the command received by said receiving means, and outputting an access signal based on the address, and

acquisition means for acquiring, from said storage means, information corresponding to the access signal.

2-3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1 [[3]], wherein said the conversion means has, in correspondence with each of a plurality of types of printheads, a table which makes the information specified by the command and a storage address correspond to each other, and generates the access signal by looking up a table corresponding to a mounted printhead.

5. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the command generated by said command generation means includes a command for driving and controlling the printhead.

6. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said command generation means is arranged in said carriage, interprets an input sequence instruction, generates

a command for causing the printhead to perform predetermined processing, and outputs the command to the printhead.

7. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said command generation means generates a second command on the basis of a result acquired from the printhead in accordance with a first command, and outputs the second command to the printhead.

8. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the printing element comprises a heating element, and performs printing by discharging ink from an orifice arranged in correspondence with the heating element.

Claims 9-15 (Canceled).

16. (Currently Amended) An element base for a printhead having a plurality of printing elements for performing printing and a driving control circuit for selectively driving the plurality of printing elements, comprising:

storage means for storing information;

reception means for receiving an externally input command; and

control means for performing control corresponding to the command received by said reception means, said control means including:

conversion means for obtaining an address of said storage means based on the command received by said reception means, and outputting an access signal based on the address, and

acquisition means for acquiring, from said storage means, information corresponding to the access signal.

17. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling a printing apparatus including a printhead having a printing element for performing printing and storage means for storing ~~feature~~ information, a first control unit, which controls the printing apparatus, and a second control unit, which is mounted on a carriage for carrying the printhead or arranged in the printhead, and can operate independently of the first control unit, said method comprising:

a command generation step of causing the first control unit to generate a command for setting data for acquiring specific information from information held by the printhead; and

a control step of causing the second control unit to receive the command generated in said command generation step, access obtain an address of the storage means of the printhead based on the received command data set in accordance with the command, output an access signal based on the address and acquire the specific information corresponding to the command access signal from the storage means.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) A liquid discharge apparatus which discharges a liquid by using a liquid discharge head having a liquid discharge element for discharging a liquid, comprising:

command generation means for outputting a command for setting data for causing the liquid discharge head to perform predetermined processing;

storage means, arranged on the liquid discharge head, for storing information;

head mounting means for mounting the liquid discharge head; and

control means, arranged on said head mounting means, for controlling the liquid discharge head based on the command, said control means including:

receiving means for receiving the command generated by said command generation means, and outputting a control signal corresponding to the data set in accordance with the command, thereby controlling the liquid discharge head;

conversion means for obtaining an address of said storage means based on the command received by said receiving means, and outputting an access signal based on the address, and

acquisition means for acquiring, from said storage means, information corresponding to the access signal.

Claim 20 (Canceled).

21. (Currently Amended) An element base for a liquid discharge head having a plurality of liquid discharge elements for discharging a liquid and a driving control circuit for selectively driving the plurality of liquid discharge elements, comprising:

storage means for storing information;

reception means for receiving an externally input command; and

control means for performing control corresponding to the command received by said reception means, said control means including:

conversion means for obtaining an address of said storage means based on the command received by said reception means, and outputting an access signal based on the address, and

acquisition means for acquiring, from said storage means, information corresponding to the access signal.

22. (New) A printhead having a plurality of printing elements for performing printing, comprising:

storage means for storing information;

receiving means for receiving an externally input command; and

control means for controlling the printhead based on the command received by said receiving means, said control means including:

conversion means for obtaining an address of said storage means based on the command received by said receiving means, and outputting an access signal based on the address, and

acquisition means for acquiring, from said storage mean, information corresponding to the access signal.

23. (New) The printhead according to claim 22, wherein said conversion means comprises a table which makes information specified by the command and a storage address in said storage means correspond to each other, and converts the command into an address of said storage means by looking up the table.

24. (New) The printhead according to claim 22, further comprising generation means for generating a control signal for driving and controlling the printhead on the basis of the command received by said reception means.